

## LAST OF THE NINTH

Honorable Senators,

Good afternoon. I am John Robinson  
I'm a trustee elect here today in support of the  
establishment of the Bitterroot Valley Community College.

When I learned I was going to speak to you I prepared a message that went through all of the trials and travails the voters of Ravalli County, the steering committee and trustees elect had to go through over the last several years. It was a pretty good speech, but I decided you had to be aware of all that, so I chucked that ten page speech.

When I was growing up, a long time ago, baseball was this country's game. Until I graduated college, I was a baseball player. I developed a tendency to relate a lot of problems I encountered, to solutions I learned from the game of baseball.

The teams are on the field. The voters of Ravalli County for the BVCC. The steering committee for the BVCC. The trustees elect for the BVCC, and the Montana Legislature for the BVCC is the home team. The great thing about the game of baseball is each team gets their turn at bat, and as Yogi Berra would say, "the game ain't over 'till its over."

It's the last of the ninth. The BVCC is trailing by three runs. The voters of Ravalli County, the steering committee, and

the trustees elect have all been to the plate and taken their turn at bat. Two singles and a walk. Your teammates have loaded the bases for you. When the legislature steps into the batters box they will have the opportunity to hit a grand slam home run and win the game for the BVCC.

We are all rooting for you. You are our cleanup hitter. We know you have the power do it. Your grand slam home run will have a positive beneficial effect on the voters of the Bitterroot Valley. Your home run will allow the BVCC to produce a sound, vital, educational institution that will serve the Bitterroot Community, and be a strong viable asset for the State of Montana.

We are watching as you select your bat, step out of the dugout and stride towards home plate. The crowd is watching as you tap your cleats with the bat to clear the mud out of them. You step into the batters box and dig in. You peer out at the pitcher. The runners take their leads. The entire crowd is hushed, holding their breath, waiting for you to deliver the winning home run.

Thank you for your kind consideration in listening to our petition. I am John Robinson, hopefully, a trustee for the newly to be formed Bitterroot Valley Community College.

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